

Appl. No. : 10/019,753
Filed : March 5, 2002

REMARKS

Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 7, 13, and 22 have been amended. Claims 1-2 and 4-30 are now pending in this application. Amendments have been made to correct clerical error and to clarify the claimed subject matter. Support for other amendments is found in the existing claims and the specification as discussed below. Accordingly, the amendments do not constitute the addition of new matter. Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim objections

Claims 1, 7 and 13 are objected to because the base polymer is made from monomers having general formula (I) but do not comprise said compounds.

Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to recite that the polymer comprises monomer units.

Claim 1 is objected to because the constitution of (B) is not clear. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that (B) consists of monomer units which are styrene or styrene derivatives.

Claim 1 is objected to because of ambiguity in the use of the term "and/or". Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the resin composition contains (A) and either or both of (B) and (C).

Regarding the Examiner's objection in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the claim has been amended to remove the word "and".

Regarding the Examiner's objection to the language defining x and y, the language has been simplified as suggested by the Examiner.

Regarding the objection of paragraph 6 with regards to claims 7 and 13, the indene compound of Formula I has been incorporated into the text of the claims.

Regarding the objection of paragraph 7, the claim has been amended to clarify that the polymer (F) bonds to a side chain of a polymer comprising monomer units which are styrene or styrene derivatives, and a monomer unit copolymerizable with styrene or styrene derivatives selected from the group consisting of styrene, nucleus-substituted alkylstyrenes, nucleus-substituted aromatic styrenes, α -substituted alkylstyrenes, β -substituted alkylstyrenes, nucleus-substituted alkoxytyrenes, alkyl vinyl ethers, aromatic vinyl ethers, isobutene, diisobutylene, and

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(meth)acrylic esters having 1 to 8 carbon atoms. Support for the amendment is discussed below under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Regarding paragraph 8, "the sheet or the film" has been deleted from claim 22 as suggested by the Examiner.

In view of Applicants' amendments, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 7, 13, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, and 13 to be more specific. Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found at page 19, lines 15-21 of the specification. Support for the amendment to claim 7 is found at page 30, lines 17-23 of the specification. Support for the amendment to claim 13 is found at page 36, lines 21-23 of the specification. It is submitted that the claims as amended meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In view of Applicants' amendments, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by JP 11-246733.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,432,607 to Levy.

Claims 1, 6, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,066,717 to Li, et al.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by JP 10-231403.

All of the above grounds of rejection are believed to be overcome by Applicants' incorporation of the limitations of claim 3 into claim 1. All of the rejected claims depend from amended claim 1. None of the cited references disclose the invention as presently claimed relating to the resin composition of claim 1.

In view of Applicants' amendments, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

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Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,267,086 to Pett, et al.

This ground of rejection is also believed to be overcome by Applicants incorporation of the limitations of claim 3 into claim 1. In view of Applicants' amendment, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for Claims 3, 8-12, 14, 17, 18, 21, and 23-30 is gratefully acknowledged. The Examiner also indicated that independent claims 7 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome claim objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and that claims 15, 16 and 22 would be allowable if written in independent form and rewritten to overcome claim objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 3 into claim 1 and amended the claims to overcome objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants' believe that the application is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of Applicants' amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Oct. 24, 2003

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